Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions

†2778. SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to provide any special financial assistance to the States for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the assistance provided so far for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Considering the changes effected/proposed in the guidelines of major flagship schemes of the Union Government, and the release of installments of 12th Finance Commission Grants, the availability of funds at the Panchayat level will considerably increase. Panchayats will be at the center of the service delivery effort at the local level and assume more stringent responsibilities in local level planning, disclosing their activities as mandated by the Right to Information Act and being accountable to the Gram Sabhas for planning and implementation of programmes. With the objective of meeting this challenge and for administrative strengthening and capacity building of Panchayats, a scheme named Gram Swaraj Yojana has been conceived.

(b) The Scheme for Gram Swaraj proposed to be implemented in 2006-07 aims at addressing the components of improving infrastructure, training and capacity building of elected representatives of Panchayats and Staff, undertaking action research aimed at building State Capacity to manage devolution and promoting e-Governance. Each of these strategies is elaborated below:

1. **Improving infrastructure at Panchayat level:**

   This component will provide States with a window that will enable it to develop its own plan for infrastructure upgradation, tailored to suit their particular requirements. This will be done in accordance

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

with certain commonly accepted parameters of what constitutes the minimum requirement. Such infrastructure improvement under the scheme will be supported in Panchayats located in districts other than the backward districts for which support will be provided under the Backward Region Grants Fund. An amount of Rs. 10.50 crores is proposed to be earmarked for this purpose in 2006-07.

2. **Training and Capacity building of Elected Representatives and Staff of Panchayats:**

This is proposed to comprise two aspects, namely, (a) provision of training infrastructure, such as Satellite training studios and receiving stations, training centers and hostels at the District level, and (b) supporting actual training of elected representatives and officials. The training infrastructure as well as the training content is proposed to be in accordance with a basic minimum agreed format. Training content would include a number of essential issues, including improving the process of planning, budgeting and expenditure management, information systems, participatory and consultative decision making, improving local taxation and in particular delivery of public services of the poor. An amount of Rs. 30 crores is proposed to be earmarked for this purpose.

3. **Action Research aimed at building of Capacity at the State level to manage issues and new challenges that States will face when devolving functions to Panchayats.**

There is a need to provide support for undertaking action research, which would support State Endeavour's to undertake the strengthening of Panchayati Raj. Such Action research would be particularly focused on the following aspects of devolution to Panchayats:

- Fiscal Devolution
- Financial Accountability of Panchayats
- Impact of Training Programmes on the performance of Panchayats.
- Conformity of state and central laws to Panchayati Raj legislation.

- Service delivery studies.
- Implemenation of Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
- Implementation of the Right to Information in the Panchayati Raj context,
- Elections,
- Planning by Panchayats,
- Rural Business Hubs.

An amount of Rs. 2 crores is proposed to be earmarked for this purpose.

4. **e-Governance for all Panchayats**

There is a need to provide basic computer infrastructure, software and undertake training and business process re-engineering for staff of all Panchayats. An amount of Rs. 8 crores is proposed to be earmarked for this purpose.

(c) The proposed scheme will be a Centrally Sponsored scheme with 75 per cent funding being provided by the Central Government and the remaining 25 per cent to be provided by the State Governments.

(d) Does not arise as the scheme is being introduced *w.e.f.* 2006-07 only. However, funds have been released in 2004-05 and 2005-06 to States for Training of elected representatives and facilitation of information technology in Panchayats, details of which are enclosed as statement I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Details of State-wise projects approved/funds released

(2004-05)

ANDHRA PRADESH		
APARD, Hyderabad-PRI Trg. Dt. 28/2, 23/3, 31/3, 2005	Rs. 3,20,00,000/-	Rs. 3,20,00,000/-
MAHARASHTRA		
Maharashtra-Trg. To elected Representatives of PRIs	Rs. 92,00,000/-	Rs. 92,00,000/-
WEST BENGAL		
Trg. To elected members of PRIs	Rs. 2,05,96,000/-	Rs. 2,05,96,000/-
GRAND TOTAL	**Rs. 6,17,96,000/-**	**Rs. 6,17,96,000/-**

Statement-II

Details of State-wise projects approved/funds released

(2005-06)

HARYANA		
Haryana Institute of Rural Development (HIRD), Nilokheri-PRI Trg.	Rs. 1,28,12,000/-	
State Community Dev. Trg. Centre, Nilokheri, Hayana, Trg.of women representatives of PRIs	Rs. 7,50,000/-	**Rs. 1,35,62,000/-**
ANDHRA PRADESH		
APARD, Hyderabad, PRI Trg.	Rs. 2,22,49,000/-	**Rs. 3,04,64,875/-**
APARD, Hyderabad, Accounts Trg.	Rs. 82,15,875/-	
MAHARASHTRA		
YASHADA (Maharashtra)-Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 2,13,59,500/-	**Rs. 351,00,884/-**
Maharashtra Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 1,37,41,384/-	
WEST BENGAL		
West Bengal-Satellite based Training	Rs. 2,21,25,000/-	**Rs. 2,21,25,000/-**
KARNATAKA		
Karnataka-Satellite based Training	Rs . 1,81,97,625/-	**Rs . 1,81,97,625/-**
KERALA		
Training through KILA, to different categories of members associates with PRIs	Rs. 44,00,000/-	**Rs. 44,00,000/-**
PUNJAB		
SIRD, Nabha, Punjab-Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 86,19,500/-	**Rs. 86,19,500/-**
ASSAM		
Assam-Capacity building of elected representatives & functionaries of PRIs	**Rs. 77,60,363/-**	
SIRD, Guwahati-Jan Kerosene Pariyojana-Central Grant	**Rs. 17,00,000/-**	**Rs. 94,60,363/-**
CHHATTISGARH		
Chhattisgarh Institute of Rural Dev. Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 1,47,59,000/-	
Chhattisgarh Institute of Rural Dev.-Trg. and awareness programme on Panchayat Extension in Scheduled Areas in Chhattisgarh	Rs. 46,91,875/-	**Rs. 1,94,50,875/-**

	UTTARANCHAL	
UIRD, Uttaranchal-Trg. to elected representatives of PRIs	Rs. 1,67,74,116/-	**Rs. 1,67,74,116/-**
	GUJARAT	
GUJARAT-Capacity building for e-Governance of the PRIs	Rs. 2,10,00,000/-	**Rs. 2,10,00,000/-**
	GOA	
Goa-Infotech Corp. of Goa Ltd.-Goa Infogram Scheme	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	**Rs. 1,00,00,000/-**
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	
Arunachal Pradesh-Construction of Panchayat Extn. Trg. Centres	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-	**Rs. 2,00,00,000/-**
	SIKKIM	
Sikkim-Establishment of Gram Suchna Kendra	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-	**Rs. 2,00,00,000/-**
	ORISSA	
SIRD, Orissa-Computerisation of GPs	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	**Rs. 1,00,00,000/-**
GRAND TOTAL	**Rs. 25,91,55,238/-**	**Rs. 25,91,55,238/-**

Three-tier Panchayati Raj System

†2779. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the States where three-tier elected Panchayati Raj System has not been implemented as on 31st January, 2006;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against these States; and

(d) the details of the action taken for implementation of three tier Panchayati Raj System?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR). (a) to (d) As per the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, the three Tier Panchayat System is in place at the Village, Intermediate and District levels in the States having population of above 20 lakhs. In the States where the population is less than 20 lakhs, Intermediate Panchayats are

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